

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A fitting and pipe section assembly that is capable of being installed in tubing of a jetted bath to render the tubing adaptable to accept a close fit device, comprising:

a pipe section having a center segment integrally formed with inlet and outlet end portions of the pipe section for fluid flow coupling to an inlet and an outlet of the tubing, wherein the pipe section includes indicia for guiding cutting of the pipe section at a predetermined location; and

a first fitting coupled to the inlet portion and a second fitting coupled to the outlet portion of the pipe section, wherein each of the first and second fittings include an engagement surface adapted to couple to a fitting of a close fit device, wherein when the center segment is coupled to the tubing, the engagement surfaces are disengaged from any fitting.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 1, wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly is an integral body.

4. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 1, wherein the close fit device may be removably secured to the inlet and outlet end portions of the pipe section by a fastening assembly.

5. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 4, wherein the fastening assembly comprises a union nut and a split nut retainer.

6. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 4, wherein the close fit device has an inlet and an outlet with flanges positioned at the inlet and outlet; wherein the fastening assembly comprises an outer seal which may be positioned between the

inlet end portion and one of the flanges, a split nut which may be tightened upon the inlet end portion by rotating the split nut, and a nut cover which may be slid over the tightened split nut.

7. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 1, wherein the close fit device is selected from the group consisting of a heater, ozone generator, chemical dispenser, fragrance dispenser, filter, pump, valve, flow meter, or water softener.

8. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 1, wherein the fitting and pipe section is further capable of being installed with a transverse tubing segment of a jetted bath, wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly further comprises a "T" junction; wherein the pipe section includes an inlet and outlet at the longitudinal ends of the pipe section and an aperture there between; and wherein a transverse pipe branch defining a port extends perpendicular to the pipe section from the aperture.

9. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 8, wherein the transverse pipe branch may be removably fastened to a transverse tubing segment of the jetted bath.

10. (Original) A fitting and pipe section assembly that is capable of being installed in tubing of a jetted bath to render the tubing adaptable to accept a close fit heater device, comprising:

a pipe section having a center segment between inlet and outlet end portions for fluid flow coupling to an inlet and an outlet of the tubing;

first and second fittings disposed on the inlet and outlet portions of the pipe section;

wherein the pipe section includes first and second indicia on the pipe section that guide post-installation cutting of the pipe section at predetermined points;

wherein the center segment of the pipe section may be selectively removed from the pipe section by cutting at the first and second indicia, leaving the inlet and outlet portions including the first and second fittings; and

wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly may accept the close fit device between the inlet and outlet portions of the fitting and pipe section assembly.

11. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 10, wherein the close fit device may be secured to the fittings by a first and second fastening assembly.

12. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 10, wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly is a unitary body.

13. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 11, wherein the close fit device may be removably secured to the first and second fittings by the first and second fastening assembly.

14. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 13, wherein the first fastening assembly comprises a union nut and a split nut retainer.

15. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 13, wherein the close fit device has an inlet and an outlet with flanges positioned at the inlet and outlet; wherein the first fastening assembly comprises an outer seal which may be positioned between the first fitting and one of the flanges, a split nut which may be placed over the flange and rotated to couple the first fitting to the flange, and a nut cover which may be slid over the tightened split nut.

16. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 10, wherein the close fit device is selected from the group consisting of a heater, ozone generator, chemical dispenser, fragrance dispenser, filter, pump, valve, flow meter, or water softener.

17. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 10, wherein the fitting and pipe section is further capable of being installed with a transverse tubing segment of a jetted bath, wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly further comprises a "T" junction; wherein the pipe section includes an inlet and outlet at the longitudinal ends of the pipe section and an aperture there between; and wherein a transverse pipe branch defining a port extends perpendicular to the pipe section from the aperture.

18. (Original) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 17, wherein the transverse pipe branch may be removably fastened to the transverse tubing segment of the jetted bath.

19. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 10, wherein the first and second indicia comprise annular grooves.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A fitting and pipe section assembly and interchangeable heater device for mounting in fluid flow communication in tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

a pipe section having a center segment integrally formed with inlet and outlet end portions of the pipe section, each of the end portions carrying a first close fit fitting integrally formed with the end portion, wherein the first close fit fittings face one another, the inlet and outlet end portions being adapted to be coupled in fluid flow communication to an inlet and outlet of the tubing to install the pipe section in the tubing; and

a heater device having a tubular body defining an inlet end and an outlet end, each of the inlet and outlet ends carrying a second close fit fitting, wherein the center segment can be selectively laterally removed from between the inlet and outlet end portions and the heater device can then be laterally inserted in place of the center segment between the inlet and outlet end portions of the pipe section, wherein the second close fit fittings of the heater device engage the

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first close fit fittings of the pipe section without displacement of the installed inlet and outlet end portions of tubing, wherein the first close fit fittings each include an engagement surface adapted to couple to the second close fit fittings of the heater device, wherein when the pipe section is coupled to the tubing, the engagement surfaces are disengaged from any fitting.

24. (Previously Presented) A fitting and pipe section assembly that is capable of being installed in tubing of a jetted bath to render the tubing adaptable to accept a close fit device, comprising:

(a) a pipe section having a center segment disposed between inlet and outlet end portions for fluid flow coupling to an inlet and an outlet of the tubing, wherein the pipe section includes first and second indicia on the pipe section that guide post-installation cutting of the pipe section at predetermined points and removal of the center segment; and

(b) first and second fittings disposed on the inlet and outlet portions of the pipe section; wherein the center segment of the pipe section may be selectively removed leaving the inlet and outlet portions including the first and second fittings; and

wherein the fitting and pipe section assembly may accept the close fit device between the inlet and outlet portions of the fitting and pipe section assembly.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The fitting and pipe section assembly of Claim 24, wherein the first and second fittings each include an engagement surface adapted to couple to a fitting of the close fit device, wherein when the center segment is coupled to the tubing, the engagement surfaces are disengaged from any fitting.

27. (Previously presented) A fitting and pipe section assembly that is capable of being installed in tubing of a jetted bath to render the tubing adaptable to accept a close fit device, comprising:

a pipe section having a center segment extending between inlet and outlet end sections for fluid flow coupling to an inlet and an outlet of the tubing, the inlet and outlet end sections each including an engagement surface adapted to couple to the close fit device, wherein when the center segment is coupled to the tubing, the engagement surfaces are disengaged from any fitting;

wherein the center segment of the pipe section may be selectively removed from the pipe section leaving the inlet and outlet end sections; and

wherein once the center segment is removed, the close fit device may be coupled to the engagement surfaces of the inlet and outlet end sections so as to be disposed between the inlet and outlet end sections of the pipe section.